

**NEWS FROM:
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FREE MARINA DEL REY SUMMER CONCERTS KICK OFF
EXCITING 2009 SEASON THURSDAY, JULY 9**

The Marina del Rey Summer Concerts, presented free to the public, begin weekly concerts Thursday, July 9, at 7 pm, waterside in Marina del Rey's Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way. Thursday evening classical concerts feature world class artists appearing with the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, conducted by its Musical Director Frank Fetta. On alternate weeks, Saturday evening concerts bring to the Marina internationally famed artists from the worlds of pop and jazz.

This year's Classical Thursdays begin on July 9 with a concert featuring the 75 member Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, conducted by Frank Fetta, and the 84 voice Southern California Master Chorale and their director Sheridan J. Ball, with soloists, performing works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Francis Poulenc, and the magnificent "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff.

"A Night at the Opera" on July 23 will present some of the nation's most important young operatic talents – finalists in the famed Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition, which has introduced to the operatic world such celebrated talents as Thomas Hampson, Deborah Voigt, Ruth Ann Swenson, and Julianna Di Giacomo. Ms. Di Giacomo will appear as special guest artist, following her recent successful debut at Italy's famed La Scala opera house in Milan.

Thursday, August 6, Rufus Choi, the 2008 winner of the celebrated José Iturbi International Piano Competition, will appear as soloist with Maestro Fetta and the Orchestra in Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto no. 3.

On Thursday, August 20, Maestro Fetta will welcome as honored guests Dame Cleo Laine and Sir John Dankworth. John Dankworth, a renowned composer as well as an instrumentalist and conductor, has written for the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony a composition, "Pacific West" which will receive its world premiere at this concert. Among the music Cleo Laine will sing with the orchestra are medleys of songs by composers George Gershwin and Johnny Mercer.

Host of the classical series is popular radio personality Rich Capparella of KUSC-Classical FM 91.5.

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Pop Saturdays open July 18 with two-time Tony nominee Christine Andreas, personified by critic Rex Reed as "... pure, undiluted enchantment." She will appear in a concert of Broadway classics, accompanied by composer/pianist Martin Silvestri.

August 1 The Four Aces, one of America's most celebrated singing groups, will appear in concert with their band, performing some of their many Grammy winning hits and million selling records.

They will be followed on August 15 by singer/actor John Davidson, star of Broadway musicals., feature films, records, and the well-known host and star of numerous TV series.

The 2009 Marina del Rey Summer Concerts season will close on August 29 with Sue Raney, called "one of the great living interpreters of the American songbook," who will appear in concert with the renowned Alan Broadbent Trio, featuring songs from her new album, a tribute to Doris Day.

Sponsors of the Marina del Rey Summer Concerts are Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman of the Board, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; The Department of Beaches and Harbors; The Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey; and KUSC Classical FM 91.5.

Café Petra in the Park is open for sunset dining on concert nights, and chairs are available for rent from Danielle at the concert site.

Concertgoers can take the WaterBus from seven Marina locations directly to and from the concert site, or catch the land-based Beach Shuttle, which will operate with special hours to and from Chace Park on concert nights. Parking is available at County lot #4 on Mindanao Way or lot #5 on Bali Way.

For more information call the Department's information line (310) 305-9545 or access its web site at marinadelrey.lacounty.gov.

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